AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method for detecting changes in three-dimensional shape, said method comprising the steps of:

a) collecting a plurality of imagery of a scene at different points in time;

b) using three-dimensional reconstruction processes to create three-dimensional models of said scene, said three-dimensional models comprising coordinates, said coordinates having elevations; and

c) comparing said three-dimensional models, said comparing comprising:

c1) computing a score, said score being an appraisal of the confidence of the accuracy of said three-dimensional model;

c2) collecting statistics on the variation of elevations for said coordinate as a function of said score; and

c3) comparing said three-dimensional models derived at different points in time by determining which changes are statistically significantly different.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein step c) further comprises the step of:

c4) comparing the mean or median elevation for changes in said three-dimensional models.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions for causing a computer to implement a process for detecting changes in three-dimensional shape to perform the steps of:

a) collecting a plurality of imagery of a scene at different points in time;

b) using three-dimensional reconstruction processes to create three-dimensional models of said scene, said three-dimensional models comprising coordinates, said coordinates having elevations; and

c) comparing said three-dimensional models, said comparing comprising:

c1)   computing a score, said score being an appraisal of the confidence of the accuracy of said three-dimensional model;

c2)   collecting statistics on the variation of elevations for said coordinate as a function of said score; and

c3)   comparing said three-dimensional models derived at different points in time by determining which changes are statistically significantly different.

5. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 4 wherein said instructions therein causes a computer to perform the step of:

c4)   comparing the mean or median elevation for changes in said three-dimensional models.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) An computer system comprising:

a bus;

a processor coupled to said bus; and

a computer-readable memory unit coupled to said bus;

said processor for performing a method for detecting changes in three-dimensional shape, said method comprising the steps of:

a) collecting a plurality of imagery of a scene at different points in time;

b) using three-dimensional reconstruction processes to create three-dimensional models of said scene, said three-dimensional models comprising coordinates, said coordinates having elevations; and

c) comparing said three-dimensional models, said comparing comprising:

c1) computing a score, said score being an appraisal of the confidence of the accuracy of said three-dimensional model;

c2) collecting statistics on the variation of elevations for said coordinate as a function of said score; and

c3) comparing said three-dimensional models derived at different points in time by determining which changes are statistically significantly different.

8. (Previously Presented) The computer system of Claim 7 wherein said processor performs said method for detecting changes in three-dimensional shape, further comprising the step of:

c4) comparing the mean or median elevation for changes in said three-dimensional models.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (New) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said scene comprises landscape imagery.

11. (New) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said scene comprises imagery of a three-dimensional object

12. (New) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said plurality of imagery comprises a plurality of overlapping imagery of said scene.

13. (New) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein one said three-dimensional model is created based on a pair of imagery of said plurality of imagery.

14. (New) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said statistics are merged over at least a portion of said plurality of imagery.

15. (New) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 4 wherein said scene comprises landscape imagery.

16. (New) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 4 wherein said scene comprises imagery of a three-dimensional object

17. (New) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 4 wherein said plurality of imagery comprises a plurality of overlapping imagery of said scene.

18. (New) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 4 wherein one said three-dimensional model is created based on a pair of imagery of said plurality of imagery.

19. (New) The computer system as recited in Claim 7 wherein said statistics are merged over at least a portion of said plurality of imagery.

20. (New) The computer system as recited in Claim 7 wherein said scene comprises landscape imagery.

21. (New) The computer system as recited in Claim 7 wherein said scene comprises imagery of a three-dimensional object

22. (New) The computer system as recited in Claim 7 wherein said plurality of imagery comprises a plurality of overlapping imagery of said scene.

23. (New) The computer system as recited in Claim 7 wherein one said three-dimensional model is created based on a pair of imagery of said plurality of imagery.